

# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



2022-2023

## WINTER CELEBRATION

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony with  
concerto competition winner Ben Liu, piano

Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D., Music Director

**Sunday** 🎵 **Mar. 5, 2023** 🎵 **4:00 pm**  
**Discovery Theater**

ALASKA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



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# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Building a community where music education  
and performance are valued and shared.

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Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D. ~ Music Director  
Zach Akins\* ~ Operations Coordinator  
Evan Hagen\* ~ Conducting Fellow  
Hannah Klemm ~ Intern  
Brett Lindsay\* ~ IT Contractor  
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*\*Alum*

*Alaska Youth Orchestras*  
1505 W 32nd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503  
[www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org](http://www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org)  
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of **music**.”

*- Albert Einstein*

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# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

## AYO COACHES

Nina Bingham\*, 1st violin  
Elise Gelbart, 2nd violin  
Nancy Darigo, viola  
Linda Ottum, cello  
Avalon Lee, double bass  
Laura Koenig, flute  
Brad Hamilton, clarinet

Emily Weaver, oboe  
Kyle Noonan, bassoon  
Evan Hagen\*, horn  
Sean Evanick, trumpet  
Bill Klemm, low brass  
Kade Bissell, percussion  
Joanna Mayer, harp

## SYMPHONY SCHOOL

Katie Wasko-Klink, violin  
Brett Lindsay\*, cello  
Miriam English Ward, viola  
Ali Strand, clarinet

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Heidi Herbert-Lovern  
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Kyle Lindsey  
*Brett Lindsay, CFA Liaison*

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ASD ~ Andre Horton ~ Ashburn & Mason  
Municipality of Anchorage





# BIOGRAPHY

## BEN LIU, PIANO

Music has been a part of most of Ben Liu's life. Four-year-old Ben fell in love with the piano after hearing his grandmother's performances of the theme song of his favorite game show, Jeopardy! When he was in first grade, he even composed and performed a short piece for his elementary school.

Ben has honed his skills with guidance from multiple piano instructors, starting with his grandmother and now, Rumi Smith, for the past seven years. Ben has won several piano competition awards in the Alaska State Piano Competition and MTNA competitions. Ben also plays the cello, studying under Joy Kil. He has performed with the Anchorage Youth Symphony for the last four years.

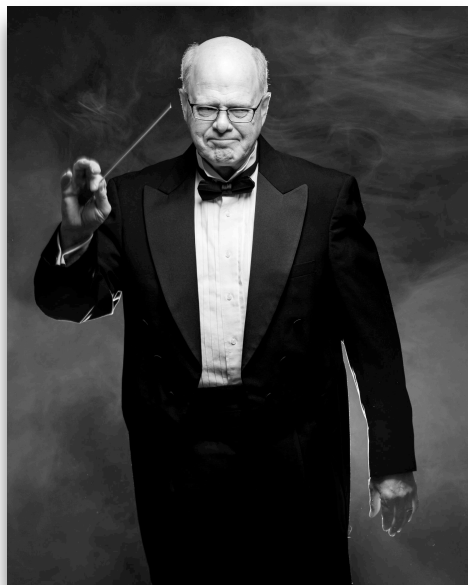


Ben has pursued rigorous study in mathematical and statistical analysis and has applied his knowledge to solving real world problems, from analyzing court rulings and healthcare data to building robust economic models. Ben will graduate from Robert Service High School in May as the salutatorian of his class. He plans to pursue a double major in Applied Mathematics and Biomedical Engineering in hopes of combining his passion for mathematics, computing/AI, and problem-solving with medicine to engineer future healthcare solutions. Ben also plans to explore music in college by performing in ensembles and taking music courses.

# BIOGRAPHY

## MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.

Dr. Bruce Wood was appointed Music Director of the Alaska Youth Orchestras in July of 2021. Dr. Wood was the founding Music Director of the Youth Orchestras of Lubbock, Texas while also serving on the faculty of Texas Tech University. From 2014 to 2021 Dr. Wood was the Director of Fine Arts for the Anchorage School District.



Dr. Wood received a bachelor's degree in music education from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and his master's and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Wood has taught in public school settings for eleven years and at the university level for over twenty-five years. He has been published by the American String Teachers' Journal, Strings Magazine, and GIA publications.

A cellist and singer, Dr. Wood has been a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. He has also conducted a number of the performances of the Anchorage Community Chorus Messiah. Dr. Wood's wife, Brooke, works for the Anchorage Museum.





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The women we must remember*



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Anchorage Opera receives operating support from the Atwood Foundation, Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation, and the Carr Foundation. Anchorage Opera is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, grants from Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Rasmuson Foundation, and the Kumin Foundation. Missing is made possible, in part, by an OPERA America Next Stage Grant, supported by Gene Kaufman, Terry Eder-Kaufman, and New Vision for NYC Opera, with additional support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Official Airline Sponsor is Alaska Airlines. Anchorage Opera is a member of OPERA America.



# A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the AYO Board of Directors, we are pleased to welcome you to tonight's Winter Celebration Concert. I am honored and humbled to serve as your board president and look forward to celebrating tonight's concert with you.



Tonight's concert features Ben Liu on piano, AYO's 2022-2023 season concerto competition winner. I know we will be blown away!

Thank you to the numerous donors and sponsors who made tonight's concert possible. Save the date of May 19 for our annual fundraiser "Classics and Cocktails" and join us in making classical music alive and vibrant for Alaska's future generation.

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance and look forward to seeing you on May 19.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joie Wilson".



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ANCHORAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

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The Anchorage Symphony Orchestra is funded, in part, by the Atwood Foundation, Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, The Carr Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Municipality of Anchorage, and through the generosity of many individuals and corporate community leaders.

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to my favorite concert of the season! There's nothing quite like seeing our musicians on stage creating musical magic.

Tonight you get to see a HUGE moment in one of our musician's lives, performing a concerto with a symphony. This is something most musicians never have the chance to do and it's unlike any other musical experience. From college applications to resume building, this performance will benefit our soloist in many ways for years to come.



This is also a nostalgic concert for me. It was the same weekend in March of 2020 that AYS took the stage for the last concert held in the Performing Arts Center before the pandemic. A year and a half later, AYS was the first group to perform for an audience in the Performing Arts Center when things reopened. I am immensely proud of all that's been accomplished since then. From our musicians and their families, to our staff and board, Alaska Youth Orchestras has adapted, grown, and excelled throughout the past 3 years.

Thank you for celebrating with us tonight. We hope to see you on May 19 for our Classics & Cocktails fundraiser and on May 20 for our season finale, the Spring Celebration Concert!

*Denise Brown-Cyber*



# AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC

A program of Alaska Youth Orchestras  
providing inspiration to hundreds of future musicians in  
partnership with

## Camp Fire Alaska

*Major funding provided by the Carr Foundation and a Community Partnership Grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support provided by Rasmuson Foundation.*



# ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



*FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023, 6-9 PM*  
*at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts*

Join us for our second annual fundraising event benefiting music education and performance! You'll enjoy a fun evening featuring delicious bites and sips by Ginger, a silent and live auction, and a private concert by the Anchorage Youth Symphony including a piece conducted by the evening's winning **Maestro for a Minute** bidder!

*Dress: Formal wear, Business wear, or Alaskan chic!*  
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*The Anchorage Youth Symphony*

## **Symphony Level Table - \$2000**

A seated table (8 guests) featuring table service

## **Orchestra Level Table - \$750**

A standing cocktail table (4 guests) featuring buffet service

## **Individual Admission - \$100**

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***[www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org](http://www.AlaskaYouthOrchestras.org)***

# ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

**A program of Alaska Youth Orchestras  
serving high school and college age musicians with a  
professional performance experience**  
*Funded in part by a generous grant from the Atwood Foundation*



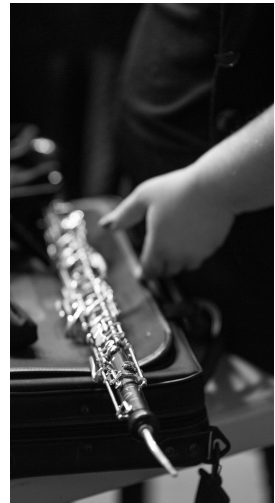
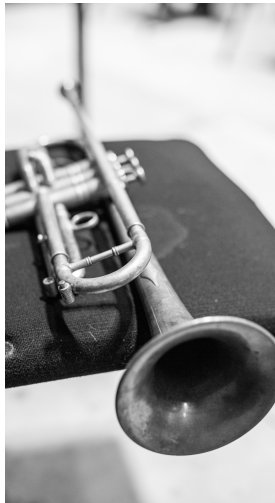


## *A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR*

When the symphony orchestra first started rehearsing for this concert, I could tell they really were enjoying the pieces chosen program. They include the depth of artistic expression in the Mendelssohn and Schubert, the fun of the Brahms and Von Suppe, and a touch of over-the-top romanticism in the Cassadó. Evan and I have enjoyed working on all of them. Our sincere hope is that this music communicates each piece's intent and, by doing that, helps each of understand a little more of what it means to be human.



*Bruce Wood*



# ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

## VIOLIN 1

Kestrel Wigglesworth  
*Co-concertmaster*  
Matthew Nagel  
*Co-concertmaster*  
Nate Gartland  
Bryce Herda  
Benjamin Strauss  
Dylan Beals  
Ingrid Berryhill  
Elias Soule  
Yaoxiang Yu  
Amelia Harris  
Madison Chaitoff  
Hailey Smith  
Isaac Dodge\*

## VIOLIN 2

Rania White  
*Co-principal*  
Andy Zhang  
*Co-principal*  
John Armstrong  
Sahid Talome Dewees  
Sarah Kim  
Peter Hobbie  
Gabriel Clingsmith  
Rebekah Renner  
Elizabeth Moreau  
Aurora Panilo  
Anna Taylor  
Bruno Bookman  
Catalina Whited  
Audrey Schirard  
Mira Olds

## VIOLA

Amira Ball  
*Principal*  
Rowan Brune  
Gabe Novero  
Willow Wielechowski  
Makayla Rose  
Luis Muñoz\*\*  
Fisher Lajoie

## CELLO

Bentley Altman  
*Co-principal*  
Josiah Verbrugge  
*Co-principal*  
Grant Chythlook  
Ruben Rhodes  
Isaac Ward  
Ezzy Allwright  
Sam Spanos  
Ben Liu  
Sara Zahn  
Donovan Mahoney  
Miles Brooks  
Zoey Dougherty  
Faith Felton

## DOUBLE BASS

Anna Lea Hyer  
*Principal*  
Violet Bowie  
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Casi LeBlanc\*\*  
Natalie Custer  
Erik Dobler\*\*\*  
Lily Gallipeo\*\*\*

## FLUTE

Yile Guo  
Lena So

## OBOE

Mark Boedefeld  
*Co-principal*  
*English Horn*  
Kayla Peppinger  
*Co-principal*  
Sophia Nagl-Mermelstein  
Charlotte Fontana

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Ali Strand\*\*  
Max Erickson  
Kolter Kalt  
Gavin Baker  
Abigail Spear\*

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Kaitlyn Paculba

## HORN

John Wellmann  
*Principal*  
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*Principal*  
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Ashton Bednar  
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Maddie Sivils  
*Principal*

\*University of Alaska Anchorage Sinfonia Students

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# PROGRAM

## ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.*

### **Toccata in the Style of Frescobaldi**

Gaspar Cassadó

### **Piano Concerto, No. 1, Opus 25**

*Molto allegro con fuoco in G minor*

Felix Mendelssohn

*Soloist: Ben Liu, piano*

INTERMISSION - 15 MINUTES

### **Hungarian Dances, No. 6**

Johannes Brahms

*Conducted by: Evan Hagen*

### **Symphony No. 8 in B Minor**

***“Unfinished”***

*Allegro Moderato*

Franz Schubert

### **Poet and Peasant Overture**

Franz von Suppe

*Soloists: Bentley Altman, cello*

*Josiah Verbrugge, cello*



*MUSIC NOTES*  
*BY MAESTRO WOOD*

**Toccata in the Style of Frescobaldi**

*Gaspar Cassadó (1897-1966)*

A toccata is a virtuosic piece designed to show off the performer's "touch." In the case of Cassadó's Toccata, transcribed by Hans Kindler, the music has rapid runs, high harmonies, and beautiful full, romantic chord structures. Cassadó attributed his Toccata, (originally written for cello) to Frescobaldi (1583-1644), but this was probably a fabrication in order to gain notoriety for his composition. When Kindler made an orchestration of it, the piece became famous and has been played by major orchestras ever since.

**Piano Concerto, No. 1, Opus 25**

*Molto allegro con fuoco in G minor*

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

**Soloist: Benjamin Liu**

With our AYS Concerto Competition winner Ben Liu, piano, we are diving in again to experience what it is like to collaborate with a soloist. With youth orchestras, so much is new; this is Ben's first concerto performance with an orchestra, and this orchestra's first performance with a pianist since any of these musicians became members. The solo piano will announce itself with almost a defiant statement rather than a long orchestral introduction. Chief among the orchestra's challenges will be how to support Ben, and when to lead in the interludes that he is not playing.



## **Hungarian Dances, No. 6**

*Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

One of Brahms Hungarian Dances, this number six is a delightful work that vacillates between a tranquil, almost nonchalant melody and a high-kicking festiveness that will hopefully make you feel as though you are the guest of honor at a gypsy party. The “dance” is one of those pieces that we will work on for hours in order to perform in under four minutes!

## **Symphony No. 8 in B Minor**

*Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*

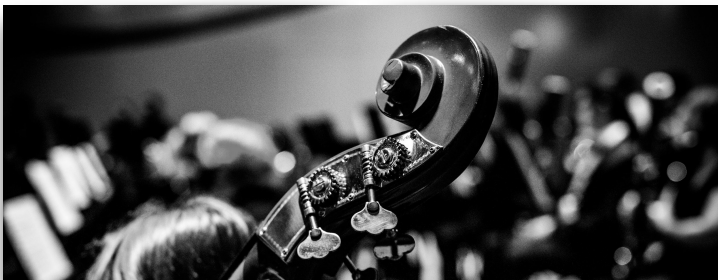
The first movement of Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony is great standard in orchestral literature. The Unfinished (Schubert passed away at the age of 31) has a dark, brooding nature combined with one of the most beautiful lyric melodies ever written. This work requires the orchestra to make further strides in gaining a unified, classic symphonic sound. I hope our musicians will not forget playing this work and its opportunity to be inside the art they create.

## **Poet and Peasant Overture**

*Franz von Suppe (1819-1895)*

**Soloists: Bentley Altman & Josiah Verbrugge**

This piece is for full, romantic orchestra but substantively features our co-principal cello soloists, almost concerto-like. Full of both lyricism and flash, there is much to do for the entire group. And for those of you who sometimes hear classical pieces and think “Where have I heard that before?”, this work was featured in one of Popeye’s cartoon shorts in which he again defeats Bluto while conducting an orchestra!





# *EVAN HAGEN*

## *CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT*

Evan Hagen is currently a Conducting Fellow with the Alaska Youth Orchestras, acting as conductor of the Symphony School Ensembles, as well as working regularly with the Anchorage Youth Symphony as a conductor and brass coach. Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Evan freelances as a hornist with the Anchorage Symphony, Opera, and Concert Chorus, while also singing in the Alaska Chamber Singers.



Before returning to Alaska from college, Evan studied horn under Dr. Jeffrey Snedeker at Central Washington University. While at university, he also pursued interests such as music history, conducting, and religious studies. Evan enjoys reading, meditating, running, and rock climbing.

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providing teaching ensembles for  
youth musicians in grades 4-12**

*Funded in part by a generous grant from the  
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Mary Grace Cope (Bass) - Dale Cope  
Bruno Bookman - Lea Filippi  
Audaline Bernier - Paul Baril  
Rienzi Witmer - Heather & Frederick Fourie  
Rienzi Witmer - Erin & Frank Witmer  
Audrey Schirard - Sang Schirard  
Isabella Schirar - Sang Schirard  
Isaac Dodge - Isaac Dodge

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Yulia McDaniel



# ALASKA WILDLIFE

CONSERVATION CENTER



# OUR HISTORY

The Anchorage Youth Symphony was formed in 1965 by Frank Pinkerton and has continued under the leadership of prominent local musicians and educators including Dewey Ehling, Kurt Pasch, Jeanne (Ray) Bruhn, Charles Gorsuch, Marlow Thomas, and, most recently, Linn Weeda.



In 1981 the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association began operating separately from the Anchorage School District and was granted 501c(3) non-profit status. Shortly thereafter the organization took adopted the name Alaska Youth Orchestras. Since then, the organization has remained an active member of the Anchorage arts community and has been a resident company of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts since 2011.

Linn Weeda served as Music Director for 31 years, expanding the program to include coaching by local professional musicians, many who were in the youth symphony as young players. He retired in May 2021.

Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D., was selected as the Music Director in July 2021. Since then, he and Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook have expanded AYO's education and performance programs, increasing the reach from 80 to 500 youth each year. The Anchorage Youth Symphony provides a professional performance experience for high school and college age musicians. The Symphony School program provides teaching ensembles for musicians from grades 4-12. AYO's new outreach program, After School Music, a community partnership with Camp Fire Alaska, provides a music inspiration program in an after school care setting.

AYO is active in the Anchorage Arts community, participating in advocacy and community building efforts and sitting on the Anchorage Arts Alliance steering committee.

# PATRON INFORMATION

## EMERGENCY

**Fire Exits:** There are numerous, convenient and clearly marked fire exits from all areas of the Center. Note the nearest exit as you take your seat. In case of emergency, the ushers will direct an orderly exit.

**Emergency Calls:** (during performances) 263-2965. Please leave the following information in order to be contacted in the facility: the event, theatre, seat number, and name.

**First Aid:** Contact the nearest usher.

**Children:** It is strongly recommended that children under 6 years of age not be brought to the theatre except for family events specifically described as such by the performing organization. In any event, all patrons, including children and babies, must have a ticket for admittance.

**Latecomers** will not be seated until an appropriate break in the performance, as determined by the presenting organization.

**Cameras and Recording Equipment:** The taking of photographs or the use of any audio or video recording device is strictly prohibited in the theatres unless permission is granted by the promoter.

**Pagers, Alarm Watches, and Cellular Phones:** Please silence your pagers, digital watch alarm and cellular telephones before the performance begins.

**Smoking** is permitted outside the building only. Smoking including use of an electronic smoking device is prohibited within 20 feet of each entrance per (AO 2006-86(S) and Alaska Statute 18.35.300 prohibits smoking in public indoor places.

**Bottled water**, purchased from the concessionaire or vending machines, is permitted in the theatres. Generally, **food and beverages are not allowed in the theatres unless otherwise advertised.**

**Restrooms** are located on the Street and Orchestra Levels in the Carr/Gottstein Lobby; in the Harrison Lobby, they are located on all levels. **Baby changing tables** are located in restrooms on Street level of the Lorene Harrison Lobby & Orchestra level of the Carr-Gottstein Lobby.

**Coat Check** is available on the street level of both the Lorene Harrison and Carr/Gottstein lobbies from October 1-May 1.

**Accessible Services Program.** The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts has an Accessible Services Program to better serve patrons who experience disabilities. It is our goal to provide a fully enjoyable experience to all patrons. Through these services, patrons with disabilities should have no hesitation in attending an event at the Alaska Center. Please call Accessible Services for best available accessible seating. For more information, contact Cindy Hamilton, Vice President, at 263-2902 (voice) or 263-2903 (TTY). A brochure about the program is available at the Center ticket office, the Center administrative office as well as from ushers.

**Wheelchair Availability:** Patrons may borrow a wheelchair, courtesy of the Carolyn Ramey Memorial Fund, for access to and within the theatres. Call Julie at 263-2902 or 263-2920.

**Wheelchair Access** is available in all theatres. Provisions are made for wheelchairs at the rear of each theatre and the front of the Atwood Concert Hall. Your advance notice to the Ticket Office is requested.

**Assistance for hearing impaired.** Head phones are available at the House Manager Station on Orchestra Level of the Lorene Harrison or Carr-Gottstein lobbies.

**Parking** is available in the Municipal Garage on 7th and G hourly parking is also available at 6th and H; the Penney's Garage on 6th and E Streets; the Fifth Avenue Mall Garage at 5th and C; State Garage on E Street & 7th, and on the street.

**Personal Apparel:** The Management is not responsible for personal apparel or other property of patrons. Patrons are advised to take wraps with them whenever they leave their seats. Lost and found items may be claimed at the Center office, 8am to 5pm.

**TICKETING: CenterTix.com;** CenterTix is Located in the Carr-Gottstein (South) Lobby of The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (located across the street from Humpy's). Phone: (907) 263-ARTS (263-2787); 263-2717 (teletypewriter).

## **Ticketing Hours:**

CenterTix at the Center:

Mon – Fri from 9am to 5pm  
Saturday from 12pm to 5pm  
Sunday – Closed

Call Center:

Mon-Fri from 9am to 5pm  
Saturday from 12pm to 5pm  
Sunday – Closed

Events: Box office is open 90 minutes prior to curtain time for ticketed events in the Center and remains open through the first intermission (or 30 minutes after curtain time if there is no intermission). **Unable to use your ticket? Call 263-ARTS (2787)**

Productions at the Center employ members of I.A.T.S.E. Local 918.



## **ALASKA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS MANAGEMENT**

The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts Inc., a nonprofit organization, manages the facility under contract to the Municipality of Anchorage. Administrative offices are located in the Center at 621 West 6th Avenue. Inquiries about booking the theatres should be directed to Cindy Hamilton, Vice President and Event Operations Director, 263-2919.

## **USHERING IN THE ARTS**

"Ushering in the Arts," a project of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, is also supported by ConocoPhillips, First National Bank Alaska, and the ushers themselves. For more information, call Melissa Weckhorst at 263-2920.





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